

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 610

By Jackson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Senator Pete Springer.

WHEREAS, the members of the General Assembly were shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the untimely death of our trusted friend and beloved colleague, Senator Pete Springer of Centerville; and

WHEREAS, Pete Springer was a gifted public servant whose dedication to his district, including the citizens of Centerville and Hickman County was absolute and unwavering; and

WHEREAS, Senator Springer performed his duties with distinction as a devoted and effective public servant; he took his responsibilities as a member of the Senate very seriously, and he performed each of them with the utmost integrity and diligence; and

WHEREAS, he was an honest and sincere man of impeccable integrity and strongly held political, social and religious values; and

WHEREAS, Pete Springer was a man of great social conscience and moral values, who was firmly committed to supporting legislation that was not always popular or politically expedient, but was, in his opinion, in the best interest of the people of this state; and

WHEREAS, Senator Springer touched countless lives during his meritorious tenure in the General Assembly, not only through the far-reaching legislation he sponsored, but also by means of his worthy personal example; and

WHEREAS, although Senator Springer was a faithful servant of the good people of Senate District 25, he provided inspired leadership on statewide social and political issues that were important to him; and

WHEREAS, he sought to dramatically reduce crime in Tennessee by pushing for tough anti-crime laws, including stronger penalties for child abusers, drunk drivers and he expedited procedures for the review of death penalty cases; and

WHEREAS, he passed legislation to creating the Safe Neighbors Act, which provided \$7.5 million in grants to local communities to hire one thousand additional police officers across the state; and

WHEREAS, an educator himself, Pete Springer understood the importance of quality education; he worked with purpose and commitment to provide adequate funding for, and to otherwise advance the causes of, education at all levels; and

WHEREAS, from 1990-98, Senator Springer supported legislation that increased funding for schools in his district by more than \$80 million; he also sponsored legislation to crack down on violent and disruptive students, to ensure the safety of our students and teachers at school; and

WHEREAS, Pete Springer was born on February 27, 1945, in Lyles, Tennessee; he served the good people of the 25th Senatorial District with distinction in the 92nd General Assembly, and from the 97th through the 101st General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, he served with acumen and industry as chairman of the Senate Government Operations Committee; as vice chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus and the Select Committee on Children and Youth; as secretary of the Senate Transportation Committee, and as a member of the Senate Education, and Education Oversight Committees; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciated the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of citizenship, Senator Springer served as a board director of several community

organizations and educational institutions, including the Southern College of Optometry, and the Jeff Dye Scholarship Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Senator Springer earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Middle Tennessee State University, and an Ed.S. degree from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Pete Springer is survived by his loving wife, Janice, their three children, Neyland, Vince and Jarron, and three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Pete Springer's death creates a void that cannot be easily filled, as we shall greatly miss his honesty and integrity in matters both legislative and personal, his dedication to the health and welfare of his constituents and indeed all Tennesseans, his ability as a legislator, and his adherence to the time-honored principles of public service, religious faith, and family values; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor the memory of Senator Pete Springer, reflecting fondly on his accomplishments as a dedicated public servant and a devoted family man, and on his distinguished legacy of integrity, wisdom and principle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we offer our sympathy and extend our condolences to Senator Springer's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.